



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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January 28, 2020

Senator Sara Howard, Chairperson  
Health and Human Services Committee  
District 9  
Room #1402  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: Support for LB 1105

Dear Senator Howard and Members of the Committee:

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Board of Health supports LB 1105. LB 1105 will establish critical provisions necessary for recovery audits that will assure the use of licensed health care professionals from the specialty area of practice for peer to peer review, assure that auditors will utilize the professional clinical guidelines and best practices of the appropriate specialty organizations that are responsible for establishing professional standards, and prohibit contract auditors from extrapolating overpayments from providers.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) was recently impacted in the loss of our dental clinic's pediatric dentist of 15 ½ years because the recovery audit contractors did not base their review on established professional guidelines, nor did the contractors have the equivalent educational training of a pediatric dentist or experience in treating Medicaid patients at high risk for dental disease. As a result of this misguided and unfair audit, the LLCHD pediatric dentist will no longer be a Medicaid provider and will no longer serve as a positive spokesperson to other community dentists or dental students that rotate through our clinic for public health experience. The loss of our dental program's pediatric dentist will have a significant negative impact on our clients by not having access to his specialty expertise in treating children as early as age 1 and in treating children with chronic dental disease and behavioral challenges. As a local health department, our resources are directed to serving the most vulnerable, at-risk populations in our community. Of the dental patients seen, over 70% are children, 79% are enrolled in Medicaid, 62% have language barriers and over 85% are of racial and ethnic minorities and white non-English speaking.

Adopting the provisions in LB 1105 is critical to ensuring the integrity of the Medical Assistance Act and for maintaining a vital Medicaid provider network for the State of Nebraska.

Respectfully,

James Michael Bowers  
Board of Health President

Cc: Lancaster County Senators  
Adelle Burk, City of Lincoln  
Eric Gerrard, City of Lincoln

